

Message Text

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ORIGIN PRS-01

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TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 299051 TOSEC 120199

FOR HODDING CARTER FROM S/PRS

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: SOPN, OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS R.)

SUBJECT:EVENING PRESS SUMMARY

NO. 24

1. WIRES:

AP--BARRY SCHWEID FROM RIYADH

LEAD: "TALKS WITH SAUDI LEADERS TODAY 'ENCOURAGED' SECRETARY
OF STATE CYRUS R. VANCE ABOUT THE PROSPECT OF A FREEZE IN
OIL PRICES, A U.S. SPOKESMAN SAID."

OTHER POINTS:

--SAUDI ARABIA HAD ALREADY SAID IT WOULD WORK AGAINST ANY
INCREASE WHEN THE 13 MEMBERS OF OPEC MEET NEXT WEEK IN
CARACAS.

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--SPOKESMAN HODDING CARTER DESCRIBED VANCE AS "VERY HOPEFUL"
THAT OPEC WILL DECIDE TO FREEZE CRUDE OIL PRICES, AFTER
THE SECRETARY HAD MET WITH KING KHALID.

REUTERS--ROY GUTMAN FROM RIYADH

LEAD: "SECRETARY OF STATE CYRUS VANCE WON SAUDI ARABIA'S
ASSURANCE TODAY OF TOTAL SUPPORT FOR EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE A
COMPREHENSIVE MIDDLE EAST PEACE SETTLEMENT; A STATE
DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID."

OTHER POINTS:

-- AFTER MORE THAN THREE HOURS OF TALKS HERE, MR. VANCE FELT SAUDI ARABIA "IS PLAYING AND INTENDS TO PLAY A CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE TOWARD A PEACEFUL EVOLUTION OF THE PROBLEMS IN THE MIDDLE EAST", SPOKESMAN HODDING CARTER SAID AND ADDED THE SAUDIS ARE "TOTALLY COMMITTED TO ASSISTING IN ANY WAY THEY CAN TO A COMPREHENSIVE PEACE SETTLEMENT AND THE PURSUIT OF PEACE. THAT ROLE IS ONGOING RIGHT NOW."

--SAUDI ARABIA HAS NOT VOICED PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR THE SOLO PEACE MOVES OF EGYPT'S PRESIDENT ANWAR SADAT, ACCORDING TO AMERICAN OFFICIALS, BECAUSE THEY ARE TRYING TO PLAY A MEDIATING ROLE BETWEEN EGYPT AND SYRIA.

OTHER STORIES FROM RIYADH (NO BYLINE)

LEAD: "SAUDI LEADERS HAVE ENCOURAGED AMERICAN HOPES THAT OIL PRODUCING COUNTRIES WILL NOT RAISE PRICES AT THE OPEC MEETING IN CARACAS ON DECEMBER 20, A US STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY."

OTHER POINTS:

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-- SECRETARY OF STATE VANCE DISCUSSED OIL DURING TALKS WITH KING KHALID, CROWN PRINCE FAHD AND FOREIGN MINISTER PRINCE SAUD AL-FEISAL ON THE FINAL FULL DAY OF HIS TOUR.

-- "HE FEELS ENCOURAGED ABOUT THE PROSPECTS FOR NO INCREASE IN PRICES ON THE BASIS OF DISCUSSIONS TODAY", SPOKESMAN HODDING CARTER SAID.

-- THE US ALREADY RECEIVED ASSURANCES FROM IRAN AND SAUDI ARABIA THAT THEY WOULD OPPOSE OIL PRICE INCREASES FOR THE NEXT YEAR.

UPI--FROM RIYADH (NO BYLINE)

LEAD: "SECRETARY OF STATE CYRUS VANCE WOUND UP HIS SIX-NATION MIDDLE EAST TOUR WEDNESDAY BY BRIEFING THE LEADERS OF SAUDI ARABIA ON HIS UNSUCCESSFUL EFFORTS TO HEAL SOME OF THE RIFTS IN THE ARAB WORLD."

OTHER POINTS:

-- VANCE ARRIVED IN THE SAUDI CAPITAL FROM SYRIA WHERE HE FAILED TO MAKE ANY PROGRESS IN THE SOFTENING OF THE POSITION OF THE SYRIANS TO EGYPT'S NEW DIALOGUE WITH ISRAEL. HE HAD FAILED EARLIER IN LEBANON AND JORDAN.

-- VANCE'S TOUR PRODUCED A SHOW OF AMERICAN SUPPORT FOR THE

DIALOGUE UNDERTAKEN BY EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT SADAT AND
ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER MENAHEM BEGIN.

-- A SENIOR US OFFICIAL TRAVELLING IN THE VANCE PARTY
PRAISED THE SAUDIS AS A FORCE OF MODERATION IN THE MIDDLE
EAST AND SAID HE HOPED "THEY WILL CONTINUE TO PLAY SUCH A
ROLE IN THE FUTURE."

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-- BEGIN LEFT ISRAEL WEDNESDAY FOR WASHINGTON ACCOMPANIED
BY HIS ATTORNEY GENERAL IN A MOVE WIDELY INTERPRETED AS
A SIGNAL THAT THE ISRAELIS WERE PREPARING THEMSELVES FOR
SOME NUTS-AND-BOLTS BARGAINING WITH EGYPT ON THE SHAPE OF
FUTURE PEACE.

-- ALTHOUGH VANCE FAILED TO ACHIEVE ANY CHANGE IN KING
HUSSEIN'S REFUSAL TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CAIRO TALKS HE
EMERGED HOPEFUL THAT JORDAN COULD BE BROUGHT INTO A FUTURE
GENEVA CONFERENCE.

-- LEBANON TOLD VANCE IT WAS NOT INTERESTED IN EITHER THE
CAIRO TALKS OR IN THE EARLY STAGES OF THE GENEVA TALKS.

-- IN SYRIA, VANCE ARRIVED TO SHARP EDITORIAL CRITICISM,
HELD LONG HOURS OF UNPRODUCTIVE TALKS WITH PRESIDENT ASSAD
AND FOREIGN MINISTER KHADDEM AND THEN LEFT TO THE TAUNTS
OF THE GOVERNMENT CONTROLLED DAILY NEWSPAPER "TISHRIN".

2. NEWSPAPERS:

BOSTON GLOBE NOT RECEIVED IN THE OFFICE.

NO COVERAGE IN AFTERNOON PAPERS.

3. NETWORKS:

NBC -- JOHN CHANCELLOR IN CAIRO

LEAD: "ISRAEL'S PRIME MINISTER BEGIN FLEW INTO THE U.S.
TODAY SAYING THAT CHANCES FOR PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST
ARE REAL. HE CAME INTO NEW YORK. HE WILL TALK WITH THE
PRESIDENT IN WASHINGTON ON FRIDAY. THE WHITE HOUSE SAYS
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IT WILL BE PLEASED TO SEE HIM BUT DOES NOT KNOW EXACTLY
WHAT IT IS THAT BEGIN WANTS TO DISCUSS."

NBC -- RICHARD HUNT IN NEW YORK

LEAD: "PRIME MINISTER BEGIN LANDED 40 MINUTES LATE BECAUSE OF STRONG WINDS AND A DRIVING RAINSTORM. ALTHOUGH HE SUFFERED FROM A COLD, BEGIN STOPPED LONG ENOUGH TO SAY HE HAD COME TO INFORM PRESIDENT CARTER IN DETAIL ABOUT THE DRAMATIC THINGS THAT HAVE HAPPENED SINCE HIS LAST VISIT FIVE MONTHS AGO.

"BEGIN: 'WE ARE NOW AT A PROPITIOUS TIME TO MAKE A REAL EFFORT TO ESTABLISH PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST. THEREFORE, I HAVE EMBARKED ON THIS JOURNEY TO WASHINGTON WITH A FEELING OF A MISSION IN THE SERVICE OF PEACE.'

"BEGIN GOT A WARM GREETING FROM RABBI ALEXANDER SCHINDLER, A LEADER OF AMERICAN JEWISH OPINION AND SEVERAL OTHER AMERICAN RABBIS WHO HAVE BEEN STRONG SUPPORTERS OF ISRAELI POLITICS. THEN HE WAS OFF TO DINE IN PRIVATE AT A MIDTOWN HOTEL."

NBC -- JOHN CHANCELLOR IN CAIRO

LEAD: "IF THERE WAS ANY DISAPPOINTMENT TODAY THAT PRIME MINISTER BEGIN CHOSE THE OPENING DAY OF THIS CONFERENCE TO FLY TO THE UNITED STATES, IT DID NOT SHOW IN THE AMERICAN DELEGATION. THAT DELEGATION IS HEADED BY ALFRED AHERTON, THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THIS PART OF THE WORLD.

"AHERTON: 'THIS IS A SITUATION IN WHICH THE PROCESS OF MOVING TOWARDS PEACE GOES ON IN LOTS OF PLACES WITH LOTS OF LEVELS; THEY INTERACT. YOU CAN'T COMPARTMENTALIZE IT AND I THINK TALKS BETWEEN THE PRIME MINISTER OF ISRAEL UNCLASSIFIED

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AND THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES ABOUT THE PEACE-MAKING PROCESS CAN ONLY REINFORCE AND STRENGTHEN THE ONE PLACE WHERE DIRECT TALKS IN THAT PROCESS ARE NOW GOING ON.'

"IT IS BELIEVED BY AMERICAN OFFICIALS HERE THAT THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT IS STILL MAKING UP ITS MIND ABOUT WHAT COURSE AND WHAT HARD CHOICES TO MAKE. THEY BELIEVE THAT BEGIN'S TRIP TO SEE PRESIDENT CARTER IS PART OF THAT PROCESS OF DECIDING. THEREFORE, UNTIL THAT DECISION IS MADE, THERE SHOULD BE NO STARTLING BREAKTHROUGHS HERE AT THE CAIRO CONFERENCE."

NBC -- JOHN PALMER IN CAIRO

LEAD: "PRESIDENT SADAT KNEW ABOUT THE BEGIN VISIT TO WASHINGTON WELL BEFOREHAND BECAUSE HE HAD PROMISED REPORTERS

THERE WOULD BE A SURPRISE DEVELOPMENT TODAY. HE WAS OBVIOUSLY PLEASED ABOUT THE CARTER-BEGIN VISIT SAYING IT

WOULD KEEP UP THE MOMENTUM FOR PEACE.

"SADAT: 'THERE HAS BEEN A VERY IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENT TODAY. MENAHEM BEGIN LEFT TO THE STATES TO MEET WITH PRESIDENT CARTER, AND THIS SHOWS THAT WE ARE REALLY HEAD-ING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION. WHATEVER HE IS AFTER WITH PRESIDENT CARTER, I'M OPTIMISTIC, REALLY I'M OPTIMISTIC.'

"MR. PRESIDENT, THERE HAVE BEEN REPORTS THAT IN ADDITION TO THIS LOWER LEVEL CAIRO CONFERENCE, THERE HAVE BEEN SECRET HIGH LEVEL CONTACTS BETWEEN EGYPT AND ISRAEL IN RECENT DAYS. IS THERE ANY TRUTH TO THESE REPORTS?

"SADAT: 'WELL, WHY SHOULD WE MAKE SECRET CONTACTS? WHEN I FOUND THAT IT WAS THE RIGHT MOMENT, I WENT TO JERUSALEM
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IN THE DAYLIGHT. WHY SHOULD WE HAVE THIS SECRET? '

"PRESIDENT SADAT SPENT A BUSY DAY AT HIS COUNTRY HOUSE ALONG THE NILE MEETING WITH EGYPTIAN OFFICIALS AND WITH FOREIGN AMBASSADORS. IN FACT, HIS SCHEDULE WAS SO CROWDED THAT HE DIDN'T EVEN HAVE A CHANCE TO WATCH THE OPENING OF TODAY'S HISTORIC CONFERENCE ON TELEVISION."

NBC - DAVID BRINKLEY IN WASHINGTON

LEAD: "SECRETARY VANCE WOUND UP HIS TOUR OF THE MIDDLE EAST WITH A STOP IN SAUDI ARABIA, TELLING THE SAUDIS ABOUT HIS EARNEST EFFORTS TO SOFTEN UP THE OTHER ARAB COUNTRIES - SYRIA, LEBANON, JORDAN - TRYING TO PERSUADE THEM TO JOIN IN THE NEW MOVE TOWARD PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST. THEY WOULD NOT JOIN."

CBS -- ANCHORMAN WALTER CRONKITE IN NEW YORK:

LEAD: "SECRETARY OF STATE CYRUS VANCE TODAY WRAPPED UP HIS SIX DAY-SIX NATION MIDDLE EAST JOURNEY IN RIYADH. IN ADDITION TO DISCUSSING THE CURRENT PEACE MOVEMENTS, VANCE TALKED ABOUT OIL AND WHAT THE OPEC COUNTRIES WILL DISCUSS AT THE OPEC MEETINGS IN CARACAS."

BEGIN VISIT

BOB SIMON INTERVIEWED PRIME MINISTER BEGIN ON THE PLANE EN ROUTE TO NEW YORK:

BEGIN: "I FEEL THAT I HAVE TO INFORM THE PRESIDENT OF ALL THE EVENTS OF THE PAST WEEKS, DRAMATIC EVENTS WHICH AS I

BELIEVE, REALLY MAY CHANGE THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST."

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WALTER CRONKITE: "DESPITE BEGIN'S FEELINGS, THIS DOES SEEM TO UPSTAGE THE CAIRO MEETING, BUT IN AN INTERVIEW WITH CBS NEWS, EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT SADAT SAID THE VISIT ACTUALLY IN HIS WORDS, 'WOULD GIVE A NEW DRIVE TO THE CAIRO TALKS.'"

CBS - BERT QUINT IN CAIRO

LEAD: "PRESIDENT SADAT SAYS HE BELIEVES THAT MR. BEGIN'S TRIP TO WASHINGTON WILL GIVE MOMENTUM TO THE PEACE EFFORT. IN AN INTERVIEW WITH CBS NEWS, HE SPOKE OF THE POSSIBILITY OF JOINING AMERICAN AND ISRAELI LEADERS IN A THREE-WAY MEETING LATER ON. THE PRESIDENT WAS AT A RESIDENCE OUTSIDE OF CAIRO FAR FROM THE CONFERENCE SITE WHEN THE PREPARATORY TALKS BEGAN TODAY. HE SEEMED RELAXED AND EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT THE AMERICAN EMBASSY AND THE ISRAELI DELEGATION HERE WOULD SUPPLY HIM WITH DETAILS OF THE MEETING IN WASHINGTON.

SADAT: "I THINK THAT THE VISIT OF MR. BEGIN TO PRESIDENT CARTER IS A MOVE THAT WILL GIVE A NEW LIFE TO THE CAIRO CONFERENCE HERE. NOT AGAINST IT AT ALL -- IT IS NOT APART FROM WHAT IS HAPPENING HERE IN CAIRO. NOT AT ALL. WHEN THE MOMENT COMES, THE LEVEL OF THE REPRESENTATION CAN BE RAISED TO FOREIGN MINISTERS. THAT MOMENT THE POLITICAL DECISION WILL TAKE PLACE...IN THIS WE ARE VERY FLEXIBLE AND LET US WATCH THE DEVELOPMENT AFTER MR. BEGIN'S VISIT. I MAY TELL YOU - IT IS NOT A SECRET - IT IS NOT A SECRET ANYMORE AT THIS MOMENT. I HAVE RECEIVED FROM PRESIDENT CARTER ALSO AN INVITATION...HE WAS SO KIND ENOUGH TO TELL ME WHENEVER I FOUND IT APPROPRIATE, HE WILL BE RECEIVING ME THERE IN WASHINGTON. FOR THE TIME BEING, I HAVE NO PLANS FOR THIS, BUT AS I TOLD YOU, LET US ALL BE FLEXIBLE."
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QUINT: "MR. PRESIDENT, THIS SOUNDS VERY MUCH LIKE A HINT THAT YOU WILL BE GOING TO WASHINGTON SOON."

SADAT: "NO, I HAVE NO PLANS, BUT I WON'T EXCLUDE IT."
CHRISTOPHER

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